

LIBRARY

South West Salop United Districts

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1948

ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT

BOROUGH OF BISHOP'S CASTLE

CHURCH STRETTON URBAN DISTRICT

CLUN RURAL DISTRICT

BOROUGH OF WENLOCK

CONTENTS

- I PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF
- II INTRODUCTION
- III GENERAL STATISTICS
- IV SECTION A. Social Conditions and Vital Statistics
- V SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services
- VI SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area
- VII SECTION D. Housing
- VIII SECTION E. Inspection and supervision of Food
- IX SECTION F. Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases
- X ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORIES ACT, 1937
- XI CAUSES OF DEATHS

South West Salop United Districts

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
for the Year

1948

ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT

BOROUGH OF BISHOP'S CASTLE

CHURCH STRETTON URBAN DISTRICT

CLUN RURAL DISTRICT

BOROUGH OF WENLOCK

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

JAMES L. GREGORY, M.B., CH.B., F.R.F.P.S., D.P.H., D.T.M. & HY.

Sanitary Inspectors :

†Atcham R.D.	W. H. PURSLOW	Cert. Roy. San. Inst.
†*Bishop's Castle M.B.	A. HEALEY (resigned 30/9/48)	Cert. Roy. San. Inst.
†* " "	C. R. LAWLESS (appointed Dec. '48)	Cert. Roy. San. Inst.
†*Church Stretton U.D.	K. C. T. JACKS	Cert. Roy. San. Inst.
†*Clun R.D.	H. A. ELLIOTT	Cert. Roy. San. Inst.
†*Assistant Inspector	H. BRAMWELL	Cert. Roy. San. Inst.
Wenlock M.B.	C. J. THOMAS	Cert. Roy. San. Inst.

† Meat Inspector's Certificate held.

* Also holds post of Surveyor or Assistant Surveyor.

County Tuberculosis Officers :

DR. T. R. ELLIOTT AND DR. A. C. WATKIN
Tuberculosis Dispensary,
17 Belmont,
Shrewsbury

Public Health Laboratory Service

(Directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry)

Bacteriologist : DR. C. A. JONES

Pathologist : DR. G. GRANT

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY,
ROYAL SALOP INFIRMARY, SHREWSBURY

Telephone Number : Shrewsbury 4389

South West Salop United Districts

PONTESBURY,

1st June, 1949 .

TO THE CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCILS :

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the annual report on the health of your districts for the year ending 31st December, 1948. The report is drawn up in accordance with Circular 3/49 (England) of the Ministry of Health, dated 17th January, 1949.

The incidence of infectious diseases in the area was again low and no serious epidemic took place. One case of Typhoid Fever was reported, but the disease was contracted outside of the area and there were no further cases.

A total of 241 housing units were made available during the year under review and of these 121 were of traditional type, 30 were Airey houses, 6 were flats, 38 were converted Army huts, and 46 were built by private enterprise. Since 1945 the numbers of houses completed have been as follows : 1945, 2 ; 1946, 69 ; 1947, 162.

Very little has been done so far by way of reconditioning the older houses, many of which—both in rural and urban districts—have fallen into a very poor state. They also lack modern amenities such as indoor water supply and sanitation. It is to be hoped that legislation will soon be forthcoming to enable many of these older houses to be re-conditioned.

A total of 39 new cases of Tuberculosis was notified during the year, of which 32 were of the pulmonary type. Deaths from Tuberculosis numbered 19 (16 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary).

The death-rate was 0.394 per 1,000 population, which is lower than that for the country as a whole.

Deaths from Cancer numbered 73, and the death-rate was 1.517 per 1,000 (England and Wales 1.858).

This disease is not as yet notifiable and the only information we have at present is from the death returns. Much more information as to its distribution among the population would be available if it were made notifiable, and this may be done in the future. At

present very little is known about its origin, infectivity or otherwise, or its distribution in different areas or among different classes of the community. Periodic examination of those of middle age might also lead to earlier diagnosis, which is so important if cure is to be expected by surgical means or otherwise.

The following figures show the statistics for the area and, for comparison, the figures for the country are also given.

			South-West Salop	England and Wales
Birth-rate	...	...	19.8	17.9
Stillbirth-rate	...	...	23.4	23.1
Death-rate	...	...	11.6	10.8
Infant Mortality rate	...		31	34
Maternal Mortality rate			1.02	0.86
Tuberculosis Death-rate			0.394	
Cancer Death-rate	...		1.517	1.858

The above rates are per 1,000 of the population, except the Infant Mortality rate, which is calculated per 1,000 live births, and the Maternal Mortality and Stillbirth rates, which are calculated per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

JAMES L. GREGORY,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

The following are certain general statistics :—

ATCHAM R.D.	Registrar-General's estimate of population—mid 1948	...	...	19,920
	Area (in acres)	...	...	134,465
	Number of inhabited houses	...	...	5,464
	Rateable value	...	...	£72,417
	Product of 1d. rate	...	...	£285
<hr/>				
BISHOP'S CASTLE M.B.	Registrar-General's estimate of population—mid 1948)	...	...	1,427
	Area (in acres)	...	...	1,867
	Number of inhabited houses	...	...	399
	Rateable value	...	...	£5,684
	Product of 1d. rate	...	...	£23
<hr/>				
CHURCH STRETTON U.D.	Registrar-General's estimate of population—mid 1948	...	...	2,427
	Area (in acres)	...	...	6,085
	Number of inhabited houses	...	...	749
	Rateable value	...	...	£21,497
	Product of 1d. rate	...	...	£86
<hr/>				
CLUN R.D.	Registrar-General's estimate of population—mid 1948	...	...	9,683
	Area (in acres)	...	...	132,512
	Number of inhabited houses	...	...	2,927
	Rateable value	...	...	£24,041
	Product of 1d. rate	...	...	£96
<hr/>				
WENLOCK M.B.	Registrar-General's estimate of population—mid 1948	...	...	14,830
	Area (in acres)	...	...	22,657
	Number of inhabited houses	...	...	4,502
	Rateable value	...	...	£47,959
	Product of 1d. rate	...	...	£182
<hr/>				
SOUTH WEST SALOP UNITED DISTRICTS	Area of the districts (in acres)	...	...	297,586
	Total population (estimated)	...	...	48,107
	Total rateable value	...	...	£171,598
	Total number of inhabited houses	...	...	14,041

ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT

VITAL STATISTICS

			Total	M.	F.
Live Births—	Legitimate	... ..	396	212	184
	Illegitimate	... ..	27	16	11
Total			423	228	195

Birth Rate per 1,000 of population=21.2

Still Births—	Legitimate	... ..	8	3	5
	Illegitimate	... ..	—	—	—
Total			8	3	5

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births=18.3

Deaths	215	118	97
--------	--------	-----	-----	----

Death Rate per 1,000 of population=10.7

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

	No. of	Rate per 1,000
	deaths	live & still births
(a) From puerperal sepsis	Nil	—
(b) From other puerperal causes	1	2.32
Total	1	2.32

Death of Infants under one year :—

	No. of	Rate per 1,000
	deaths	live births
(1) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	9	22
(2) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	2	74
(3) All infants per 1,000 total live births	11	26

Deaths from	CANCER (all ages)	... ..	29
„	„ MEASLES (all ages)	... ..	—
„	„ WHOOPING COUGH (all ages)	... ..	2
„	„ DIARRHOEA (under two years of age)	... ..	—
„	„ TUBERCULOSIS	... ..	5

BOROUGH OF BISHOP'S CASTLE

VITAL STATISTICS

			Total	M.	F.
Live Births—	Legitimate	... ..	15	8	7
	Illegitimate	... ..	2	1	1
Total			17	9	8

Birth-rate per 1,000 of population=13.7.

Still Births—	Legitimate	... ..	1	1	—
	Illegitimate	... ..	—	—	—
Total			1	1	—

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total Births=55.5.

Deaths	17	8	9
--------	--------	----	---	---

Death Rate per 1,000 of population=13.6.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

	No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live and still births
(a) From puerperal sepsis	—	—
(b) From other puerperal causes	—	—
Totals	Nil	Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year :

	No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
(1) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	—	—
(2) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	—	—
(3) All infants per 1,000 total live births	Nil	Nil

Deaths from	CANCER (all ages)	... ..	2
„	MEASLES (all ages)	... ..	—
„	WHOOPING COUGH	... ..	—
„	DIARRHOEA (under two years of age)	... ..	—
„	TUBERCULOSIS	... ..	—

CHURCH STRETTON URBAN DISTRICT

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births				Total	M.	F.
	Legitimate	...	...	28	10	18
	Illegitimate	...	...	1	1	—
Total				29	11	18

Birth Rate per 1,000 of population=11.9.

Still-Births	Legitimate	...	...	1	1	—
	Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
Total				1	1	—

Still Birth-rate per 1,000 total births=33.3

Deaths	35	17	18
--------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----	----	----

Death-rate per 1,000 of population=14.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:

				No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live & still births
(a)	From puerperal sepsis	...	—	—	—
(b)	From other puerperal causes	...	—	—	—
Totals				Nil	Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year :

				No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
(1)	Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	1	35
(2)	Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	—	—	—
(3)	All infants per 1,000 total live births	...	...	1	34

Deaths from	CANCER (all ages)	...	...	...	...	5
"	" MEASLES (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
"	" WHOOPING COUGH	...	...	...	...	—
"	" DIARRHOEA (under two years of age)	...	...	...	...	—
"	" TUBERCULOSIS	...	...	...	...	1

CLUN RURAL DISTRICT

VITAL STATISTICS

				Total	M.	F.
Live Births	Legitimate	...	...	181	95	86
	Illegitimate	...	...	11	7	4
			Total	...	192	102
					102	90

Birth Rate per 1,000 of population=19.8

Still-births	Legitimate	...	...	6	4	2
	Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
			Total	...	6	4
					4	2

Still-birth Rate per 1,000 total births=30.3

Deaths	119	61	58
--------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----	----

Death Rate per 1,000 of population=12.3.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

			No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live & still births
(a)	From puerperal sepsis	...	—	—
(b)	From other puerperal causes	...	—	—
	Totals	...	Nil	Nil

Deaths of infants under one year :

			No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
(1)	Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	...	6	33
(2)	Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	1	91
(3)	All infants per 1,000 total live births	...	7	36

Deaths from	CANCER (all ages)	...	...	...	17
„	„ MEASLES (all ages)	...	...	...	—
„	„ WHOOPING COUGH (all ages)	...	...	...	1
„	„ DIARRHOEA (under two years of age)	...	...	...	—
„	„ TUBERCULOSIS	...	...	...	3

BOROUGH OF WENLOCK

VITAL STATISTICS

				Total	M.	F.
Live Births	Legitimate	...	...	271	150	121
	Illegitimate	...	...	25	15	10
	Total	...	...	<u>296</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>131</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of population=20.0

Still-births	Legitimate	...	...	7	3	4
	Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
	Total	...	...	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>

Still-birth Rate per 1,000 total Births=23.1

Deaths	174	102	72
--------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Death-rate per 1,000 of population=11.7

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

		No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live & still births
(a)	From puerperal sepsis	...	—
(b)	From other puerperal causes	...	—
	Totals	...	<u>Nil</u>

Deaths of Infants under one year :

		No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
(1)	Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...
(2)	Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...
(3)	All infants per 1,000 total live births	...	...

Deaths from	CANCER (all ages)	...	...	...	20
„	„ MEASLES (all ages)	...	...	...	—
„	„ WHOOPING COUGH (all ages)	...	...	...	—
„	„ DIARRHOEA (under two years of age)	...	...	...	2
„	„ TUBERCULOSIS	...	...	...	10

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The chief industry in the districts is agriculture, and most of the population are engaged in it or in allied trades.

In the Borough of Wenlock the Madeley and Broseley Wards are more of an industrial character, and Church Stretton is a residential area. Bishop's Castle is a centre for the agricultural districts which surround it.

There has been little unemployment in the districts during the year, and the general conditions in which the people live are improving on the whole, although the problem of housing is still an acute one.

The population in the area reached its highest point during the late war, due to the evacuation of numbers of children from the larger towns in the country. In 1941 the total population was estimated to be 51,400, as compared with 45,380 in 1939. Since the war the population has been reduced by the return of the children to their own homes, and the following figures show the present population as compared with the 1939 figures:—

Area	Estimated population			+ or —
	1939	1948		
Atcham R.D.	18,390	19,920		+1,530
Bishop's Castle	1,321	1,247		—74
Church Stretton	2,246	2,427		+181
Clun R.D.	9,753	9,683		—70
Wenlock M.B.	13,670	14,830		+1,160
<hr/>				
S.W. Salop	45,380	48,107		+2,727
<hr/>				

These figures show that the population tends to increase in the more urban areas of the district. Many of the people resident in the Atcham R.D. are employed in Shrewsbury, and this probably accounts for at least some of the increase in the Rural District. A number of people also travel from Church Stretton to work in Shrewsbury. Enquiries have been made during the year with a view to having some form of light industry established in the Clun R.D. in order to try and counteract the drift towards the towns.

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The number of births registered was 957, as compared with 1,029 in 1947. The birth-rate was 19.8 as compared with a rate of 17.9 for England and Wales.

Of the total births 66 were illegitimate, and this equals 6% of the total, which is the same as in 1947.

The following are the births and birth-rates for the individual districts :—

District	Total Births	Birth rate per 1,000 of population
Atcham R.D. ...	423	21.2
Bishop's Castle ...	17	13.7
Church Stretton ...	29	11.9
Clun R.D. ...	192	19.8
Wenlock M.B. ...	296	20.0
South West Salop ...	957	19.8

Still Births

These numbered 23 in all (Atcham 8, Bishop's Castle 1, Church Stretton 1, Clun 6 and Wenlock 7) as compared with 32 in the previous year. This gives a Still Birth rate of 23.4 per 1,000 total (live and still) births. The rate for the country was 23.1, which was a new low record.

The still births taken in conjunction with the deaths of children under one year of age give the most accurate figure with regard to the loss of infant lives, and the following are the figures for 1948 and the four previous years :—

Year	Still births	Infant deaths	Total	Rate per 1,000 live and still births
1944	16	37	53	55.0
1945	30	25	55	66.4
1946	20	38	58	58.0
1947	32	40	72	67.8
1948	23	30	53	54.0

Deaths

A total of 460 deaths were registered giving a crude death-rate of 11.6 per 1,000 of the population (England and Wales = 10.8). The rate in the previous year was 13.1.

It will be seen that the rate is slightly above that for the country as a whole, but the figures are not comparable as no figures are

available for correcting the difference in age and sex distribution which affects the death-rate considerably. The death-rate is usually lower where there are numbers of children and young adults and correspondingly higher where the population contains a greater proportion of people at more advanced ages.

A table showing the causes of deaths will be found at the end of the report and it will be seen that Heart Disease, Intra-cranial Vascular Disease (Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.) and Cancer are the chief causes of death. All of these are conditions usually met with in persons over middle age. Cancer is the cause of one death in every eight and its frequency as a cause of death is no doubt in part due to the fact that more people are now living to greater ages than formerly was the case. It is interesting to note that Tuberculosis has now gone down to seventh place as a cause of death whereas it used to be in the first three.

Only two cases of death from Whooping Cough and two from Influenza were reported, these being the only deaths from notifiable infectious diseases during the year. Such diseases as Small Pox, Typhoid Fever, Scarlet Fever and now Diphtheria have almost disappeared as causes of death in this country and it is frequently forgotten what a very severe toll they used to take of life in England.

It is not so very long ago since it was rare for a family of children to survive to adult life without a toll being taken of them by one or other of the infectious diseases which have now ceased to be a menace to child life. Now, if a child survives the first week of life, it is more likely to die from an accident than from disease. This great change has been brought about by the increase of knowledge regarding the causes of infections which we now have as a result of the discoveries of the causal organisms of so many diseases during the later part of the last century and during the last fifty years.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

One puerperal death was registered during the year this being in the Atcham R.D. This gives a puerperal death-rate of 1.02 per 1,000 live and still births. (England and Wales=0.86).

Natural Increase of Population

The births exceed the deaths by 397. This is about the same as in previous years.

Infantile Mortality

The deaths of 30 infants under one year of age were notified, and this gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 31 per 1,000 live births. This is a lower rate than last year when there were 40 infant deaths but is not a low record as in 1943 the rate was 28. The rate for the country was 34.

The chief causes of those infant deaths were Pneumonia (10) and Premature Birth (9)—accounting for nineteen out of the 30 deaths.

The ages at death of the thirty infants were as follows :—

under 1 day	under 1 mth.	aged 1-3 mth.	aged 3-6 mth.	aged 6-9 mth.	aged 9-12 mth.	All ages
1	14	5	—	5	5	30

It will be seen that 15 of the deaths took place under the age of one month. These are the neo-natal deaths and this gives a neo-natal death-rate of 16 per 1,000 live births.

For many years now the deaths among the older infants have been declining in number but the same cannot be said of the numbers of children under the age of one month and more will have to be done to save the lives of these young infants.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Staff

At Bishop's Castle Mr. C. R. Lawless was appointed as Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. A. Healy who left to take up another appointment. The Assistant Inspector for the Clun R.D. also resigned during the year and his place has been filled by the appointment of Mr. H. Bramwell.

Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory at Shrewsbury has, as in former years undertaken the examination of water and milk samples and reported on these. Chemical examinations of water samples and of sewage effluents are undertaken at the Laboratory at Chester. Reports are also received on samples sent in by doctors in the districts for diagnostic purposes. Very close co-operation is maintained with the Laboratories and the help received from them in many Public Health problems is much appreciated.

Ambulance Facilities

The County Council's proposals for the ambulance services in the County have been approved by the Ministry of Health and the scheme is now in operation. In addition to the fleet of ambulances stationed at Shrewsbury there are also ambulances at Madeley, Much Wenlock, Pontesbury and Bishop's Castle. No complaint of any difficulty in obtaining the services of an ambulance has been reported to me during the year.

Hospitals

The hospitals have now all been taken over by the Hospital Board who are responsible for them as from July 5th, 1948. A list of hospitals available for the area was given in the report for 1946. There are also beds available for the more chronic cases at Bishop's Castle and at Ironbridge. The hospital at Copthorne, Shrewsbury, has also been taken over by the Hospital Board and thus more beds have been made available.

Nursing in the Home

This work is carried out by the nurses of the various nursing associations throughout the districts, and full details of the work done during the year can be found in the report of the Shropshire Nursing Federation. Home visits are also paid by the School Nurses and Health Visitors of the County Health Department, and advice is also given by them to patients who have Tuberculosis.

Home Help Service

This has now been organised on a County basis and sub-offices are already opened at Church Stretton, Bishop's Castle and in the

Wenlock Borough. The Atcham Rural District will be served from the Shrewsbury Office.

Details of the scheme will be found in the County Council's "Proposals for Local Health Services."

This service will prove of great value and is already been made use of by many who are unable otherwise to obtain any domestic help at times of illness in the home. The County Organiser of the Women's Voluntary Service, working in consultation with the County Medical Officer of Health, will undertake the recruitment, training and supervision of the voluntary workers who will staff the sub-offices.

Treatment Centres and Clinics

There are, at present, combined school clinics and welfare centres at Bishop's Castle, Church Stretton and Ironbridge. A few parents also take their children to the Shrewsbury Welfare Centre which is convenient for parts of the Atcham R.D.

It is hoped that soon it will be possible to open Infant Welfare Centres at Much Wenlock and at either Pontesbury or Minsterley in the Atcham R.D. These are planned for in the County Council's future programme.

The days of meeting of the Clinics and Welfare Centres are as follows:—

Bishop's Castle	...	First and third Friday afternoons each month.
Church Stretton	...	First and third Thursday afternoons each month.
Ironbridge	...	Friday afternoons—weekly.
Broseley	... ..	(Welfare Centre only). Thursday afternoons —fortnightly.

Venereal Diseases Clinic

This is held at 1 Belmont, Shrewsbury, at the following times:—

Males	Females
Tues. and Fri., 6-8 p.m.	Mon. and Wed., 2-4 p.m.

Tuberculosis Dispensary

This is held at 17 Belmont, Shrewsbury (telephone number Shrewsbury 3031). Cases are usually referred to the Tuberculosis Officers by private practitioners and suitable cases for treatment are admitted to the Sanatorium at Shirlett.

Diphtheria Immunisation

This is undertaken by the County Health Department and children are offered immunisation either at schools, Welfare Centres or by their own private doctors. In every case the protection is given free of charge. Particulars of the numbers immunised during the year will be found in the report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

This section of the report deals with water supplies, sewerage and sewage disposal, public cleansing and other matters which concern environmental hygiene.

No serious shortage of water was reported in the areas although temporary local shortages did occur in various places.

A Ministry of Health Enquiry was held at Madeley into the proposed sewerage scheme for the Aqueduct, Madeley, and mention was made in my report for 1947, of the Enquiry into the Atcham R.D.S's proposals for the extensions to their two main water supplies. This was held in December, 1947.

Schemes for the building of new houses have brought out the urgent need for new water supplies in many parts of the rural areas and also for the necessity of sewerage and sewage disposal where these have not previously existed. Water supplies may be designed to supply several villages and scattered rural areas, as in the case of the West Atcham Supply, but sewage disposal works must of necessity be more local as it not practicable to construct long stretches of sewer throughout a scattered area with very few houses.

It is improbable that some of the larger schemes for providing water throughout the more scattered areas will be carried out at present, but it might be as well for local authorities to consider the providing of smaller supplies for villages and hamlets in the meantime, and these might be planned so that when the larger schemes are possible the smaller supplies can be linked to them and thus augment the main supply.

One cannot but feel that many of the smaller supplies in South Shropshire are serving their purpose well and the fact that no serious waterborne epidemic has occurred, in the last fifty years at least, from these small supplies is surely proof that they are reasonably safe. Of course it is necessary that they should be kept under supervision and that where necessary some method of purification should be installed. Chlorination of a supply by one of the excellent chlorinators now to be had is a very satisfactory means of rendering a supply safe.

In such a case also it is necessary to check the effects of chlorination by regular sampling of the water.

ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT

Water Supply

The Council's two main supplies have proved satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity during the year and I am indebted to Mr. J. R. Sockett, the Council's Surveyor and Engineer for information regarding these supplies.

No extensions were carried out but it is hoped that a start will be made in the Autumn of 1949 with the extensions which were mentioned in last year's report. These involve 50 miles of new mains and will supply a further 703 houses, 172 farms and 7 schools, the population concerned being approximately 3,163 persons.

At present the number of premises supplied is as follows :—

Domestic premises	...	...	...	717
Metered supplies (to farms, etc.)	...	...	...	317
Keys supplied for stand-pipes	...	...	...	752
Total				1,786

New connections to houses in 1948 numbered 138, and there were 4 less metered supplies due to cancellation of Army Supplies. There were also 31 fewer stand-pipes in use.

Analyses of Samples

Samples are taken for bacteriological examination twice a month in each case, and the reports have been satisfactory throughout the year. Both supplies are of considerable natural purity and are also treated by chlorination as an additional safeguard. (Chloramine process).

Chemical Analysis of samples from the two supplies was also undertaken in October, 1948, and the results indicated that both waters are of a high degree of purity and suitable for domestic use.

Elsewhere in the district supplies are from wells and springs and there are also a number of small estate supplies, some of which supply villages or hamlets. When complaints are received of any of these small supplies, samples are taken and advice given as to improving the quality of the water concerned.

The Surveyor states that negotiations are in progress to purchase the borehole and pumping plant at Atcham Air Field and if this is done it will make available a further supply for the Eastern Atcham Area.

Sewage Disposal and Sewerage

Construction of a small disposal works at Cound Hall has been commenced which will deal with the sewage from the flats which the Council are having constructed there.

Tenders have been invited for the sewers and disposal works at Cross Houses where a starting date of May 1st, 1949, has been

awarded by the Regional Building Committee. When completed this will allow the Council to proceed with their houses on the site prepared at Cross Houses.

At Bayston Hill, where a new sewage scheme is needed, the Council have submitted a scheme to the Ministry of Health. In the meantime, however, it has been suggested that a better plan might be to take the sewage from Bayston Hill into a proposed new sewer to be constructed by the Borough of Shrewsbury and which will pass between the Borough and Bayston Hill. If this plan were adopted the need to construct new disposal works for Bayston Hill would be avoided. The matter is meanwhile under the consideration of the Council.

At Minsterley, where six houses should be completed this year on the new site, some preliminary survey work for a village scheme has been carried out.

A scheme is also being prepared for a village drainage scheme at Cressage, where the Council are also building new houses.

The last report of the effluent from the Pontesbury Disposal Works was unsatisfactory and this plant, which has been in operation for over 40 years, will require major reconstructions as the filter beds are in a bad state of repair.

Other villages in addition to those mentioned where a scheme of sewage disposal is required are : Ford, Condover, Bomere Heath, Hanwood, Montford Bridge and Longden. A report on the whole question of sewage disposal in the district was submitted to the Council by the Surveyor in December, 1944.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

There has been no change in the system of collection during the year. A fortnightly collection is made throughout the area and disposal is at tips at Annscroft, Westbury and Montford Bridge.

The approximate cost of collection in 1948 was £2,100.

The Surveyor reports that the salvage returns showed a slight increase over the previous year.

BOROUGH OF BISHOP'S CASTLE

Water Supply

The supply is an upland surface one, the gathering ground being above Maesgwyn from which source the water is piped to a reservoir at The Cabin just above the town.

The supply during the year has been sufficient as there was no very long period of drought during the summer and autumn months. The supply is chlorinated at the reservoir and filtered before entering the distribution mains.

Twelve samples of the chlorinated water were taken during the

year and of these all but one were very satisfactory. In addition to these samples two samples of the untreated water were taken and both of these showed that faecal coli were present.

The chlorinator installed by the Council in 1944 has continued to give satisfactory results and ensures a safe water supply for the town.

In previous reports mention has been made of the lack of storage facilities owing to the fact that the large storage reservoir at Maesgwyn cannot be used. At present the supply is only just adequate in normal weather conditions for the needs of the population. The present consumption is approximately 35,000 gallons per 24 hours and the capacity of the service reservoir at The Cabin is just over 80,000 gallons or less than three days supply. In 1939, after cleaning and other work had been carried out, the 4 in. cast-iron main from Maesgwyn gave a discharge rate of 4,4000 gallons per 24 hours, so that a duplicate main would be needed if the supply coming to the town is to be considerably increased.

The Council have had under consideration during the year the different ways in which storage might be increased, but so far no definite decision has been arrived at. At Maesgwyn a large quantity of water is at present running to waste as it cannot be stored nor can it be brought by the existing main to the town. The problem is therefore not one of shortage of supply but rather of lack of storage facilities.

A suggestion was received with regard to obtaining water from a spring near Mainstone in the Clun R.D. and having it pumped into the main pipe line. This would also no doubt require the duplicating of the main but for a much shorter distance than if it had to be laid from Maesgwyn.

Whatever is the solution of this matter of storage of water, it will have to be solved sooner or later as the daily consumption of water is going up and will continue to do so as new houses are built and others are fitted with bath-rooms and indoor sanitation. Farms also will use more water in the future as more of the herds become Accredited or Tuberculin Tested milk producers.

No chemical examination was made of the water during the year, but in the report for 1947 will be found a report on the chemical examination of a sample which shows the water to be satisfactory chemically (page 18).

The Council have now (1949) decided to seek further advice with regard to the best method of increasing storage facilities.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Out of a total of 399 houses there are 356 connected to the main sewerage system. No new sewers have been laid apart from those necessary for the new housing site which were mentioned last year.

The plant at the disposal works has functioned well and a sample of the effluent taken in July, 1947, showed it to conform to

the standards required except as regards solids in suspension which were 6 parts per 100,000 as against the recommended maximum of 3 parts per 100,000. A further sample of the effluent is being taken in February, 1949. An inspection of the disposal works was made during the year and everything was found to be functioning well.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Collection of house refuse is undertaken weekly and is by contract. Refuse is tipped at Moat Hill and no complaints were received as regards the tip. Rats are kept down by the County Council Staff. If the tipping were done over a smaller surface and well covered up with soil, this would reduce the amount of paper which is usually to be seen in the neighbourhood.

Salvage

This is collected by arrangement with the Clun R.D.C.

Report on Sewage Effluent

The following is the report on a sample of the effluent taken at the out-fall on February 18th, 1949 :—

	Parts per 100,000		
Total solid matter in solution	70
Nitrogen in Nitrates	1.2
Chlorine in Chlorides	6.3
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate at			
80°F. in four hours	0.40
Free and saline ammonia	0.64
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.04
pH Value	7.00
*Suspended solids	3.5
*Dissolved Oxygen absorbed in five days at			
18°C.	2.0
Organic impurity figure	8

* The Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal recommended that no effluent should contain more than 3 parts per 100,000 of suspended solids and that the dissolved oxygen absorbed should not exceed 2 parts by weight per 100,000.

CHURCH STRETTON URBAN DISTRICT

Water Supply

Particulars of the three supplies to the district were given in last year's report (pp. 19-20). The supply has been adequate during the year and all three supplies are chlorinated. Samples are taken monthly of the chlorinated water and have proved satisfactory as regards the Town Brook Hollow and New Pool Hollow Supplies. Four of the samples from the All Stretton Supply were unsatisfactory, and it has been pointed out in previous reports that this supply cannot be considered safe as the source and the reservoir are both open to pollution. The Council have not yet officially taken over this supply from the Company to whom it belongs.

The Surveyor reports that 460 feet of 3 in. Mains have been laid to the new houses in Central Avenue. Only a very few of the more out-lying houses are not connected to the main supplies.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

All the new houses built in 1948 with two exceptions have been connected to the sewers. The two which were not are in the All Stretton Ward. A total of 532 houses out of 749 are now on the main sewerage system. At All Stretton the Council's scheme for new disposal works has been approved, but the Ministry have not yet held an enquiry into it.

Trouble has been experienced in the main sewer through obstruction to the flow of sewage and manholes being blown off. The Surveyor reports that scraping has been carried out and it is hoped that this will improve matters for the time being until the Council's proposed plans for renewing the sewer are carried out. He has also advised the Council to have larger diameter pipes laid over a section of the sewerage system. It has been noted in previous reports that surface water is gaining access to the sewers and this is leading to the sewage disposal works being very much overloaded. The effluent is satisfactory.

Refuse Disposal

Numberous complaints have reached the Surveyor with regard to this service and he has re-organised the collection scheme so that refuse is collected from each house in the Church Stretton Ward on the same day each week. These collections take from Monday to Thursday inclusive of both days, and on alternate Fridays a collection is made at Little Stretton and All Stretton, both of which therefore get a fortnightly collection. Efforts have been made to improve the tipping at the refuse tip and the rats have been well dealt with by the County Council Staff. No complaints of nuisance have been received.

Salvage

The total value of salvage collected during the year was £111. The figure for 1947 was £74 and for 1946 it was £147.

CLUN RURAL DISTRICT

Water Supplies

The Council are responsible for thirteen small supplies in the district and these supplies serve about 580 out of the total number of about 2,800 houses in the area.

Elsewhere water is obtained from wells and springs and in some cases from small private or estate supplies. None of the Council's supplies are treated by filtration or chlorination and they are all liable to be contaminated after heavy rainfall which washes vegetable or animal matter into the supplies to a greater or lesser degree.

The large area and the scattered population make it difficult to ensure a piped supply which has been made safe for domestic use to all households but the Council have several schemes at present under consideration which will secure better supplies for some of the larger villages. Particulars of these will be found in the following notes which have been supplied by the Surveyor (Mr. H. A. Elliott).

As regards the three major water supply schemes which were mentioned in the Report for 1945 (page 20), no further progress has been made during the year and it is probable that it will be made years before these become possible to carry out.

Meanwhile it is of importance that supplies where housing programmes are to be carried out should be adequate for the demand on them and if small new supplies are needed these should be such as can be fitted into the major schemes which are planned for the future.

Bacteriological Reports were received on 54 samples of water during the year. Many of these samples were taken from suggested new supplies at housing sites. No Chemical Analyses were reported on.

I am indebted to the Surveyor for the following notes on water supplies, sewerage and refuse collection, etc.

Water Supplies

Generally speaking in 1948 the Council's Water Supplies were maintained without difficulty. The one which gave the most trouble was Bucknell. This was partly due to the fact that there is no storage at the source of the spring, and an overflow has to be maintained there in order to give the higher houses in Pentre a supply. It was also partly due to an extended use of the water in Bucknell for the 20 new temporary houses, and 6 new permanent houses, two of which have been erected by private enterprise. The Council decided to put a larger storage tank near the source. At the end of 1948 the necessary levels had been taken but the occupier was objecting to the site chosen.

Pumping had to be carried out for a short period at both Clun and Kempton from the boreholes.

Complaints were received at intervals about the insufficient

supply of water to three or four of the higher premises supplied from the present Rorrington and Marton Scheme. This lack of pressure is not due to a deficiency at the source. The main is only 2 in. in diameter and has been in for thirty-five years. Since it was put in a few of the farms have installed cattle bowls and milk coolers, and it is at the periods when milk cooling takes place that there is a shortage of water at the higher points. It should be stated that under the terms of the lease the Council have no control over the amount of water used on the Rorrington Estate, as they have to supply all the requirements of the various houses on that Estate with water free of cost under the terms of the lease.

At the end of 1947 the Council received from their Consulting Civil Engineer a scheme for a new supply of water to Chirbury, Marton, Rorrington, Priest Weston, and Bent Lont. At the end of 1948 this scheme had not yet been submitted to the Minister owing to protracted negotiations by the District Valuer with the owners of the sources. It is understood that the District Valuer has now been able to reach agreement with the owners, and the scheme will shortly be submitted to the Minister. The estimated cost of this scheme is £42,000.

The Council also asked their Consulting Civil Engineer to prepare a scheme for a supply of water to the villages of Lydham, More, Norbury and Wentnor. At the present time the supply to the village of Lydham is privately owned and the results of bacteriological examinations are not good. The source is on a lease which will shortly expire and the amount of water is inadequate for any expansion. The mains are of small diameter and distributed in $\frac{3}{4}$ in. and $\frac{1}{2}$ in. pipes. The Council desire to eventually build 16 houses at Lydham, and a new source is therefore necessary.

There is no piped supply at More or Linley in the same Parish, and the Council desire to build some houses at Linley.

At the village of Norbury there are a few privately owned piped supplies, but most of the inhabitants get their water from pumps. The Council also desire to build houses at Norbury.

Wentnor is a village on the top of a hill and a shortage of water regularly occurs in any dry summer. The Council have several times had to cart water to Wentnor. The scheme provides for the collection of the spring on the Longmynd which form the source of the scheme for Wentnor which was approved by the Minister in 1939, and not carried out owing to the war. These springs will supply service reservoirs situated on the Longmynd and near Norbury. They will be inadequate to supply more than the village of Wentnor during dry periods and a supplementary source will therefore be provided from a borehole at the existing Council houses at More, which will then supply all villages excepting Wentnor.

The Scheme also provides for the hamlets of Whitcott and Criften to be supplied from these sources.

The total estimated cost in this case is £23,500, and at the end

of the year the Council were still negotiating for land and water rights required.

During the year the Councils' attention was drawn to the shortage of water in the village of Edgton. This village relies mainly on one public well. This is open to pollution and is inadequate for agricultural use. Four farmers in Edgton produced a scheme for pumping water from a spring and submitted this to the Ministry of Agriculture. After consultation with the Ministry of Health the Council were asked to submit a scheme for a publicly owned supply. This scheme was received towards the end of 1948, and is estimated to cost £9,200. Negotiations for the water rights and land required are in progress.

In connection with their Comprehensive Scheme the Council sank a borehole at Brockton, Lydbury North and this was tested for fourteen days in September. Water was pumped at the rate of 251,000 gallons per day. Steps are being taken to acquire the land around this borehole which it is hoped will eventually supplement the requirements in the Parishes around Bishop's Castle, in the Clun Valley, and in the Bucknell area.

In connection with a housing scheme and requirements in the Parish of Mainstone a spring was found near Old Mill which in 1948 had a minimum flow of 105,900 gallons per day. This source was found to be bacteriologically pure, and it was thought that it may be useful to Bishop's Castle Borough to supplement their supply, and if it was, then it would also provide a supply to a housing site which had been chosen. It would be too costly to develop this source for the housing site alone.

The matter was submitted to Bishop's Castle Corporation but was considered by them not to have had sufficient investigation.

The Council's Consulting Civil Engineer has also been informed of this source and considers that it may possibly be used in connection with the Comprehensive Scheme.

At Chirbury the Council are erecting 8 houses, and the Powis Estates, Ltd., consider that the existing village supply is inadequate to provide them with water. It was found that this supply in the autumn of 1948 had only a flow of approximately 4,000 gallons per day. The Council, therefore, entered into negotiations with the Powis Estates, Ltd., and they agreed that they would lease the existing village supply to the Council and permit them to sink a borehole to search for a supplementary source. A borehole was sunk and a supply of 11,000 gallons per day was found. This source will be used to supplement the existing village supply until such time as the larger scheme previously referred to is carried out.

In connection with certain housing schemes the Council employed a Water Diviner, who had been very successful in Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire. He was not, however, successful in finding suitable sources in this District, apart from the source referred to at Brockton, Lydbury North. In this case he estimated

a flow of 30,000 to 40,000 gallons per day, and as previously stated it turned out to be very much greater.

The Council also investigated a spring for the supply of the Bog and Pennerley area. The minimum flow was only 5,000 gallons per day and a large amount of compensatory water would be demanded. It is felt that the amount which will be demanded is probably in excess of the minimum flow. No further steps have, therefore, been taken.

During 1948 the Council entered into a contract for the collection of water from the Scott Level at Snailbeach for the supply of 6 houses. This was not completed at the end of 1948.

The Council also entered into a contract for carrying out the Clungunford and Aston-on-Clun Water Scheme, but owing to delays in the delivery of pipes and fittings no work in connection with this scheme was done until December, 1948. It is hoped that it will be completed this year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Sewage Disposal plants have been installed for the housing schemes completed in respect of the temporary houses Bucknell, the permanent houses, Tyndings Cottages, Bucknell, the 6 permanent houses known as South View, Lydbury North, the 6 new houses at Newcastle, and the 22 houses in the course of construction at Brockton, Worthen.

There has been some trouble with the sewage scheme for the temporary houses at Bucknell and there have been complaints about the sewage scheme for the 6 houses at Newcastle.

So far as the village schemes are concerned, no progress has been made during the past year, except at Clun where towards the end of the year the Council's Consulting Civil Engineers, Messrs. Willcox, Raikes & Marshall, completed their detailed survey. The full scheme has not yet been presented, but upon this scheme depends future housing schemes for Clun, as it would be wasteful to provide a separate sewage disposal works for new houses which would be superseded in a few years' time by another scheme which has been necessary for some years, and has become more urgent owing to the conversion of various earth closets to water closets.

Refuse Disposal

The position with regard to the collection of refuse remains the same as before and Clun and Kinsley Road, Knighton, are the only places from which refuse is regularly collected.

There have been complaints from various villages about heaps of refuse. These have been accentuated during recent months by certain school canteens which have nowhere to dump refuse satisfactorily. Generally speaking the complaints were not so much

of nuisance as the harbouring of rats and the unsightly appearance of the dumps.

The Council have two difficulties, namely, the question of where to put the refuse and the cost of providing for regular collections. In certain Parishes owing to the extremely scattered nature of the houses it will be quite impossible to organise a refuse collection. It is, therefore, considered unfair to charge the ratepayers in these Parishes for collecting refuse.

The Council are still considering whether refuse can be collected from the larger villages and if this is done it is considered that application should be made to the Ministry of Health for an Order making refuse collection a special expense upon the Parish concerned.

Salvage

During the past year the Council have collected waste paper, rags and bones. The amounts are as follows :—

				£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	...	16 tons	8 cwts.	113	2	7
Bones	...		8 cwts.	3	13	8
Rags, etc.	...	1 ton	2 cwts.	6	17	3
				<hr/>		
				17 tons	18 cwts.	£123 13 6
				<hr/>		

During the year the Council had to give up the Depot which had been loaned to them during the war years, and the new Salvage Depot is unsuitable for the storage of bones, and the collection thereof has therefore ceased.

BOROUGH OF WENLOCK

Water Supplies

The Council's supplies are those at Harrington, Beckbury, Much Wenlock, Little Wenlock and Homer. Full details of the major sources of supply will be found in former reports and in the report to the County Council in January, 1946, from their Consulting Engineer, Mr. A. H. S. Waters.

Supplies proved sufficient during the year except at Little Wenlock where there was a shortage in the autumn months. Water was pumped to the reservoir from the Harrington Mains to relieve the temporary shortage.

With regard to the purity of the various supplies, the following are results of samples taken during the year.

Supply		Number of samples	Number satis- factory	Number unsatis- factory
Harrington Main	...	22	22	Nil
Much Wenlock—				
(a) Station Well	...	11	2	9
(b) Abbey Well	...	10	4	6
(c) From house taps		10	7	3
Little Wenlock...	...	6	2	4
Homer Wells—				
No. 1	... ..	1	—	1
No. 2	... ..	1	1	—
Samples from other sources		20	3	17

Samples from the two wells at Much Wenlock became very unsatisfactory in October, 1948, and as no improvement took place it was decided to chlorinate both supplies. Chlorinators were installed at both wells in January, 1949, and are working satisfactorily. Samples taken since chlorination was commenced show the water to be safe for domestic use.

At Little Wenlock the supply is neither filtered or chlorinated and a recommendation was made to the Barrow Committee with regard to having the supply chlorinated. It was decided to postpone the matter in the meantime but tenders were invited for the work of covering the reservoir and it is hoped that this will soon be done. The supply in this village is barely sufficient and as more use is made of water and more houses built there will be sure to be shortages. It would appear that an extension of the Harrington Mains to Little Wenlock would be the best solution of the matter and no doubt this will be considered by the Eastern Water Board which takes over the supplies in April, 1949.

Mr. N. Goodwin, the Distribution Engineer, reports that the total amount of water pumped from the Harrington and Beckbury sources during 1948 was 226, 258,000 gallons. Of this total upwards of 84 million gallons went to the out-side authorities. The total amount pumped in 1947 was 241 M. gallons.

No shortage was reported on this supply and the results of analysis were satisfactory. In the Broseley Ward 8 houses have been connected to the supply and also one farm and one Work's Canteen. A pipe line was also laid to Benthall School Room a distance of 188 yards and some cottages have been connected to this extension.

The Preen's Eddy and the Mines extensions have not yet been carried out but it is hoped that these may soon be started.

In the Madeley Ward eleven new connections have been made to houses and one Work's Canteen. An extension of 300 yards was also made to Mill House, Madeley.

No chemical reports were received during the year but copies of two reports will be found in the report for 1947 (page 26).

Sewers and Sewage Disposal

Mr. Thomas reports that an approximate length of 1,950 yards of new sewers were laid in connection with the Council's new housing schemes. The disposal works at Much Wenlock, Madeley, Ironbridge and Broseley have functioned well during the year and samples of the effluents have been satisfactory.

An enquiry was held by the Ministry of Health into the Council's proposal for a new disposal works for the Aqueduct area of Madeley. The suggested site for the proposed new works was not considered to be satisfactory and at present no progress has been made with this scheme.

It has been pointed out in previous reports that a large number of houses in the Madeley and Broseley Wards are not yet on any of the main sewers but are served by earth closets or by cess-pits which have to be periodically emptied.

The configuration of the land makes it very difficult for a comprehensive scheme for both these Wards to be planned and at the present time the cost of such a scheme would be very large indeed—even if it were possible to carry it out.

In view of the Council's building programme and the increase in the number of houses to be connected to the sewers, the problem of sewage disposal is certain to become more and more urgent and will ultimately have to be faced and solved by the Council.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Collection has been carried out by contract at Much Wenlock, Broseley, and in part of the Madeley Ward. In the remainder of Madeley Ward direct labour is used both for refuse collection and for the emptying of cess-pits.

Disposal of refuse is by "tipping," and the Council have four tips at the following sites: Much Wenlock, Ironbridge, The Lloyds, Madeley; Meadow Pit, and at Little Wenlock.

Rats at the various sites have been controlled by the County Council by arrangement. It has recently been decided to purchase vehicles to collect the refuse throughout the four Wards.

Salvage Collection

During the year the following salvage was collected:—

	£	s.	d.
Paper—80 tons, value	510	2	3
Rags—5 cwts. 3 qrs., value	3	5	7
Iron—1 ton 15 cwts 1 qr., value	5	5	9
Total	£518	13	7

Inspections by Sanitary Inspector

Mr. C. J. Thomas reports that the following visits were paid during the year and gives details of complaints received, notices served, etc., etc.

Housing Inspections ...	585	Overcrowding reported...	30
Complaints received ...	46	Overcrowding abated ...	10
Preliminary notices ...	9	Notices complied with ...	9
Statutory notices ...	4	Notices complied with...	4
Houses disinfected ...	6	New W.C's fitted ...	32
Privies repaired ...	12	Drains repaired ...	55
Water Closets repaired	3	Houses repaired...	129

SECTION D

HOUSING

The following tables show the number of houses completed in each district during the year 1948 and also the number under construction but not yet completed on December 31st, 1948.

HOUSES COMPLETED DURING 1948 :—

Area	Number of houses						
	Perm.	Airey	Swed.	Pte.	Convert. huts	Flats	Total
Atcham R.D. ...	42	30	—	21	38	—	131
Bishop's Castle M.B.	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Church Stretton U.D.	—	—	—	19	—	6	25
Clun R.D. ...	14	—	—	3	—	—	17
Wenlock M.B. ...	62	—	—	3	—	—	65
South West Salop...	121	30	—	46	38	6	241

HOUSES UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1948 :—

Atcham R.D. ...	2	36	—	22	84	21	165
Bishop's Castle M.B.	17	—	—	—	—	—	17
Church Stretton U.D.	12	—	—	4	—	9	25
Clun R.D. ...	14	18	4	—	—	—	36
Wenlock M.B. ...	66	—	—	2	—	—	68
South West Salop...	111	54	4	28	84	30	311

It will be seen that a total of 241 housing units were made available during the year, and of this total 203 were of a permanent type. In previous years the numbers of houses completed have been as follows :—1945=2, 1946=69, 1947=162.

The number under construction at the end of the year was 311, of which number 84 were ex-army huts being converted, as compared with a total of 241 houses under construction at the end of 1947.

Progress has not been as rapid as was hoped but many difficulties have been encountered by the different Councils in having their programmes completed. Lack of a sufficient water supply or of

sewage disposal facilities have been the reasons for delay in some cases and in others there has been shortage of labour or materials and fittings.

The position as regards existing rural cottages has not changed much during the year and many of these are gradually deteriorating as time goes on and only very essential repairs can be carried out. The cost of repairs is of course very high and in the case of the lower rented cottages landlords are unwilling to undertake any but the most essential repairs.

ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT

Number of inhabited houses	...	...	5,464
Number of Council Houses	...	...	355
Houses completed in 1948—			
Council Houses : Traditional type	...		42
Airey type	...		30
Converted huts	...		38
Private enterprise	...	...	21
Total new housing units	...	...	131
Houses under construction at 31/12/48			
(including 84 huts being converted)...			165
Approximate number of applications	...		691

The total number of houses made available during the year was 131 which number includes 38 converted huts and 21 houses built by private enterprise. This total compares favourably with the number completed in 1947 which was 33. (Council Houses, 28 ; Airey Houses, 2 ; private houses, 3).

At the end of the year there were 38 houses under construction by the Council and in addition 21 flats were being converted in two large residences requisitioned by the Council.

There were also 84 huts being converted into dwellings and private enterprise was building a further 22 houses, the total being thus 165 houses in all.

The following are the sites on which permanent houses were completed by the Council during 1948 and the sites of those under construction are also given :—

Sites	No. of houses	
	completed 31/12/48	under construction 31/12/48
Ford	18	4
Bomere Heath	10	—
Pontesbury	16	—
Bayston Hill	8	—
Cressage	4	—
Westbury	8	—
Upton Magna	2	4
Astley	6	—
Minsterley... ..	—	6
Wroxeter	—	6
Dorrington	—	6
Alberbury	—	6
Wattlesboro'	—	6
Totals	72	38

Building at Cross Houses on the site which has been laid out has not yet been commenced as the sewage disposal scheme is not yet available. At Pulverbatch it is hoped to commence building as soon as the extension to the West Atcham Water Main is carried out. The Council have converted 38 ex-Army huts during the year and 84 more are being dealt with at various sites.

The number of houses permitted to be built in 1949 is 50, of which number 10 may be houses to be built by private enterprise. Sites for these houses have been chosen provisionally and they will be distributed throughout the area according to the need for houses as far as this is possible. Difficulty has been experienced in getting tenders of a reasonable amount for small numbers of houses. This is rather a handicap in rural areas where large numbers of houses are not required on one site.

Early in 1949 the Council sent out 1,093 forms of application for houses to former applicants in order to discover more accurately what the present demand is in the area. Of these 691 have been returned so far and of this number 389 of the applicants are at present without a house at all.

BOROUGH OF BISHOP'S CASTLE

Number of inhabited houses	399
Number of Council Houses	51
Houses completed in 1948	3
Houses under construction at 31/12/48	17
Number of houses allotted for 1949	10
Housing applications	65

At the end of the year three of the Council's new permanent houses had been completed and the remaining 17 will soon be available. No houses were built by private enterprise during the year. The number of houses allotted for 1949 is ten and of these, licences for two houses may be granted to private builders at the Council's discretion.

The houses on the new site will have main water supply and main sewerage.

Many of the older houses in the town are in need of repairs or re-construction, but no report on a survey of these has yet been made.

No new cases of over-crowding have been reported during the year.

CHURCH STRETTON URBAN DISTRICT

Number of inhabited houses	...	...	749
Number of Council Houses	...	...	78
Houses completed in 1948—			
(a) By private enterprise	...	...	19
(b) Flats converted	...	...	6
Number of applications for houses	...		122
Number of houses under construction			
(31/12/48)—			
(a) Council Houses	...	...	12
(b) By private enterprise	...	...	4
(c) Flats being converted	...	...	9
Number of houses allotted for 1949	...		22

Permanent Houses

No permanent houses were completed by the Council during the year but at the end of the year the twelve houses in Central Avenue were under construction. In the previous year (1947) the Council completed 34 houses of which 14 were temporary bungalows.

Under private enterprise 19 houses were completed at various sites and in addition the County Council have completed 6 of the 15 flats which are being made at Stretton House. This makes a total of 25 housing "units" made available during the year.

Houses at All Stretton

The Council have not been able to proceed with the eight houses which they proposed to build at All Stretton. The delay has been due to the lack of provision for sewage disposal at All Stretton. It is to be hoped that progress will soon be possible with the Council's Scheme for this Ward.

Unfit Houses

No survey has yet been made of houses in the district with a view to classifying those which need major structural alterations or which are unfit and not capable of being made fit at a reasonable cost. It is hoped that it may soon be possible to carry out a survey so that when the time comes for work on such houses to be possible, the extent of the problem may be known.

Over-crowding

Cases of over-crowding are enquired into as they are brought to the Inspector's notice. The Council's provision of permanent and temporary houses in the last three years has helped to reduce the number of cases considerably.

CLUN RURAL DISTRICT

Number of inhabited houses	...	...	2,927
Number of Council Houses	...	...	117
Number of houses completed in 1948—			
(a) By the Council	...	...	14
(b) By private enterprise	...	...	3
Number of applications for houses	...		143
Houses allotted for 1949	...	...	16
Houses under construction as at 31/12/48...			36

Housing Programme

Progress in building remained very slow during the year and a total of only 14 houses were completed. In addition to these there were three houses built by private enterprise. The districts in which the 14 Council Houses were erected were as follows :—Bucknell (4), Clun (4) and Newcastle (6). In 1947 the total houses erected was 30 of which 20 were temporary and 4 were of Swedish Timber.

Houses Under Construction

At the end of the year 36 houses were being built but had not been completed. These were situated as follows :—Brocton (22), of which 18 are Airey Houses and 4 Swedish Timber. Chirbury (8) and Snailbeach (6). Various factors have hindered progress at these sites during the year, e.g., at Snailbeach there has been difficulty with regard to the water supply. In such a very scattered rural area it is difficult to get contractors to tender for small numbers of houses and tenders are inclined to be too high when they are received. The solution would appear to be to build houses in larger groups in villages where sites can be obtained and where there are facilities for water supply and sewerage.

The objection to this of course is that agricultural workers would have to travel some distance to their work.

Applications for Houses

Early in 1949 all those who had applied for houses previously were asked to complete a fresh application form if they still desired to be considered and as a result of this a total of 143 forms were returned. Of this number 60 were from agricultural workers.

Unfit Houses

As no Survey of all the houses has been undertaken in the district there are no accurate figures available as to the number of houses which are totally unfit or which require major repairs or re-construction. The condition of Rural Cottages is gradually deteriorating as time passes and no repairs are carried out and therefore the problem of bringing cottages up to a decent standard is growing greater each year. Repairs to low rented cottages are not being carried out by the owners owing to the high cost, and it would seem that some scheme will have to be devised to help owners who wish to improve their cottages.

BOROUGH OF WENLOCK

Number of inhabited houses	...	...	4,502
Number of Council Houses	...	...	682
New houses completed in 1948—			
(a) By the Council	...	...	62
(b) By private enterprise	...	...	3
Houses under construction at 31/12/48—			
(a) Council houses	...	...	66
(b) Private	...	...	2
Applications for houses as at 31/12/48—			
Madeley Ward	...	...	501
Broseley Ward and Barrow	...	...	204
Much Wenlock	...	...	156
			861
Houses allotted for 1949 for the Borough...			20

Permanent Houses

Sixty-two new permanent type houses were completed during the year, the figure for 1947 having been fifty. These have been built at the following sites :—

Site	No. of houses		
High Street, Madeley	22
Church Street, Madeley	4
Hodge Croft, Much Wenlock	36

Houses Under Construction

At the end of the year the Council had a total of 66 permanent houses in course of building and these were situated as follows :—

Site					No. of houses
Beech Road.	Site A.	Madeley	...	...	16
Church Street,	Madeley	...	...	...	20
New Road,	Broseley	...	...	...	10
Jackfield	...	...	...	...	6
Hodge Croft,	Much Wenlock	...	...	...	14
Total					66

It will be seen from the foregoing figures that the Council now owns 682 out of a total of 4,502 houses in the Borough which equals 13 per cent or approximately one houses in six.

There is however still a very great housing problem to be faced in the Borough as anyone who is acquainted with housing conditions must know. There are large numbers of very old and very unsatisfactory dwellings and these are more evident in the more urban parts of the Borough. It would appear that some means will have to be taken to encourage landlords to have their properties made habitable and it is to be hoped that some financial provision may be made in the near future for this purpose. It is also probable that some degree of compulsion in this matter may be necessary in cases where landlords prove unwilling to have repairs, etc., carried out even if a loan or grant is given in future legislation.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat Inspection

As in previous years the slaughtering of animals for human food has been carried out at the Ministry of Food's central slaughter-houses at Shrewsbury and Craven Arms and inspection is carried out at these centres neither of which are in the South West Salop Areas.

The Inspectors are called upon from time to time to inspect and, if necessary, condemn and have destroyed, various articles of food intended for human consumption. These articles are usually voluntarily surrendered by the owners and in most part consist of tinned food which has become damaged in transit.

During the year there has been no outbreak of food poisoning in the districts.

Milk

The Ministry of Agriculture have not yet taken over responsibility for the supervision of milk production at the farms and this duty still remains that of the Local Authority. Tuberculin Tested and Accredited Milk production is supervised by the County Health Department.

The Inspectors take samples of milk when complaints are received of any particular supply and visits are paid to the farms concerned with a view to improving methods of production.

One of the chief difficulties met with is the lack of a good water supply at the farms. Without a pure and adequate supply of water it is almost impossible to cleanse milking utensils and cool the milk, etc.

Sampling of milk is also undertaken by officials of the Ministry of Agriculture under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme but these samples are taken with a view to increase the general keeping quality of the milk and thus to increase the country's food supply. The responsibility of safeguarding the public from diseases which might be spread by milk remains the duty of the Health Officials of the various Local Authorities concerned.

Heat-Treated Milk

Treatment of milk by heat is carried on at three dairies in the areas—namely at Minsterley Creameries, Hanwood Dairies and at the Hygienic Dairy, Ironbridge.

Samples taken during the year show that the milk after being treated has generally satisfied the prescribed tests for heat treated milk. The two tests applied in these cases are the PHOSPHATASE TEST and the METHYLENE BLUE TEST.

Milk from the Hanwood Dairies is sold as PASTEURISED MILK under a licence granted by the Atcham R.D. Council.

Tuberculin Tested Milk

In July, the Hanwood Dairies were granted a licence by the Atcham R.D.C. to bottle Tuberculin Tested Milk. Samples were taken fortnightly and submitted to the tests prescribed for T.T. milk with the result that a majority of the samples failed to satisfy the tests. Samples were also taken of the T.T. milk as it arrived from the farms in churns and it was found that in some cases the samples failed to satisfy the tests. In these latter cases the names of the producers concerned were sent to the County Health Authority in order that they might investigate the conditions under which the milk was produced. It is essential that milk sold to the public as free from tuberculosis infection should also be as clean as possible and for this reason it must conform to the standards laid down in the Milk (Special Designations) Orders.

In consequence of the unsatisfactory results of sampling the Atcham R.D.C. have not renewed the licence to the Dairy concerned to bottle T.T. milk (January, 1949).

Milk Standards

At present the only milks which have to conform to definite standards are the designated milks, i.e., Tuberculin Tested, Accredited Pasteurised and Heat Treated milks. There is not any legal standard for the cleanliness of raw undesignated milk and indeed it would be almost impossible at the present time to enforce such a standard as it would not be possible to bring all the farms up to the required conditions in which clean milk could be produced. It will take many years before all farms have an adequate and pure water supply and are otherwise well equipped for clean milk production. It is therefore probable that legislation will aim at allowing only one type of milk to be sold raw, namely T.T. milk from an attested herd.

All other milk will have to be treated by heat and thus rendered safe from a medical stand-point. It is only the lack of sufficient plant to deal with the supply that has prevented the necessary legislation being brought in.

It must be remembered that other diseases besides Tuberculosis can be spread by milk and the public should know that such diseases as Undulant Fever, Scarlet Fever, Typhoid Fever, Dysentery and Diphtheria, etc. can all be carried by milk and epidemics of these diseases have indeed been spread by this means.

The fact that milk was Accredited or T.T. would not mean that it was "safe." Only by heat treatment can we be sure that milk is free from all germs of disease.

The numbers of producers on the registers are :—Atcham, 767 ; Bishop's Castle, 15 ; Church Stretton, 8 ; Clun, 245, and Wenlock, 99. Total, 1,134.

Ice Cream

Efforts have been made during the year to ensure that the conditions laid down in the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations 1947, are being complied with.

In small establishments with a seasonal trade only it is generally advised that the ice cream should be bought from the makers "wrapped" and that it should be sold without handling in any way. If this is done then the premises need not conform to Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

In other cases, however, where the ice cream is handled by serving it out into glasses, etc. there must be a separate part of the shop set aside for selling it except in shops where only confectionery is sold as well as ice cream. Provision must also be made in these cases for the sterilising of implements used in serving and for the washing of the shop-keepers hands.

In the past it has been only too common for ice cream to be made and sold either in a room in the house or in a shop where a variety of articles are sold. It is these conditions which must be brought to an end so that all chance of infection from handling can be eliminated. When this is explained to many would-be sellers they very often give up the idea or agree only to sell "wrapped" ice cream, made by one of the large manufacturers in whose premises the process of manufacture can be most carefully supervised and controlled.

A total of thirty-three samples were reported on and those falling into Categories III and IV were investigated with a view to improving the standards of production and sale. In the Clun and Bishop's Castle areas there were no manufacturers of ice-cream, in Church Stretton there are six makers and five additional sellers. Atcham R.D. and Wenlock Borough have each approximately twelve or more sellers. There are also a few sellers who come from towns outside the area and these are also sampled when possible.

SECTION F

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

District	Scarlet Fever			Measles			Whooping Cough			Acute Poliomyelitis			Puerperal Pyrexia			Pneumonia			Typhoid Para-typhoid			Erysipelas			Ophthalmia Neonatorum			Food poisoning		
	Cases	Hospital	Deaths	Cases	Hospital	Deaths	Cases	Hospital	Deaths	Cases	Hospital	Deaths	Cases	Hospital	Deaths	Cases	Hospital	Deaths	Cases	Hospital	Deaths	Cases	Hospital	Deaths	Cases	Hospital	Deaths	Cases	Hospital	Deaths
Atcham R.D. ...	37	13	—	262	—	—	161	—	2	1	1	—	2	1	—	18	—	10	1	1	—	4	1	—	2	2	—	1	—	—
Bishop's Castle ...	1	—	—	15	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Church Stretton...	1	—	—	8	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	5	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Clun R.D. ...	14	5	—	102	—	—	81	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wenlock M.B. ...	6	—	—	4	—	—	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	7	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
S.W. Salop ...	59	18	—	391	—	—	310	—	3	2	2	—	2	1	—	25	—	27	2	2	—	7	1	—	3	3	—	1	—	—
Incidence rate per 1,000 of pop :—																														
S.W. Salop ...	1.22			8.12			6.44			0.04			0.04			0.52		0.04			0.14			0.06				0.02		
ENGLAND & WALES	1.73			9.34			3.42			0.04			6.89			0.73		0.02			0.21			—				—		

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The year has been free from any outbreak of serious infectious disease. For the second year no case of Diphtheria was confirmed in the districts and if the immunisation of the young children is carried out there seems no doubt that this disease will cease to be a menace to child life.

The carrying out of immunisation has been transferred to the County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946, Part III. Parents will be able to have their children immunised at Welfare Centres, Schools or by their own family doctors—free of charge in each case.

Cases of Scarlet Fever numbered fifty-nine but they were all of a mild type and there were no deaths.

One case of Typhoid Fever was notified in the Church Stretton Urban District, the patient being a nurse who contracted the disease at Oswestry where there was an outbreak of the disease at the Orthopaedic Hospital. The patient was removed to hospital and made a good recovery. No other case was reported from Church Stretton.

Measles and Whooping Cough were prevalent in the Atcham and Clun R.D.'s, most of the cases being notified in the fourth quarter of the year. Prophylactic inoculation against these diseases is not yet extensively carried out in this country but may become more common in the future.

Two cases of Poliomyelitis were notified (one each in the Atcham and Clun Districts) but there were no deaths from this disease.

One case of Para-typhoid B. Fever was notified, the patient being a child at a boarding school in the Atcham District. Efforts were made to trace the source of infection but without success and there was no spread of the disease. It is probable that the infection had been contracted outside the district as the child had only returned to school for two weeks before taking ill.

The incidence of infectious disease in the districts compares favourably with the incidence in the country as a whole.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following were the numbers of notified cases on the registers of the districts as on December 31st, 1948 :—

Area	Pulmonary cases		Non-pulm. cases		Total cases	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Atcham R.D.	58	23	38	30	96	53
Bishop's Castle M.B. ...	3	4	2	2	5	6
Church Stretton U.D....	13	11	6	3	19	14
Clun R.D.	22	22	21	15	43	37
Wenlock M.B.	31	22	17	28	48	50
South West Salop...	127	82	84	78	211	160

These figures show an increase of six cases on the registers as compared with figures for 1947.

New Cases Notified

A total of 39 new cases were notified during the year, this being nine fewer than in 1947. Thirty-two were of the pulmonary form of the disease and seven of the non-pulmonary.

The distribution of the cases was as follows :—

Area	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Atcham	8	3	2	1	14
Bishop's Castle	—	—	—	—	—
Church Stretton	—	2	—	—	2
Clun	1	4	—	—	5
Wenlock	9	5	2	2	18
South West Salop ...	18	14	4	3	39

Deaths and Death-Rates

The total deaths from Tuberculosis numbered 19 and of these 16 were from the pulmonary type and 3 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis. The death-rate was 0.394 per 1,000 population. (Pulm.=0.332. Non-pulm=0.062).

The death rate in the districts from Tuberculosis is lower than that in the whole country.

Treatment

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the treatment of Tuberculosis has passed from the County Council to the Hospital Board which has taken over the dispensaries and the sanatoria in the County.

CANCER

The total number of deaths from Cancer during the year was seventy-three. The number in 1946 was eighty-five and in 1947 there were ninety-five deaths.

The death-rate per 1,000 of the population was 1.517. (England and Wales=1,858).

The number of deaths and the death-rates for each district was as follows :—

District	No. of deaths			Death-rate per 1,000
	M.	F.	Total	
Atcham R.D. ...	15	14	29	1.455
Bishop's Castle M.B.	1	1	2	0.801
Church Stretton U.D.	—	5	5	2.060
Clun R.D.	9	8	17	1.755
Wenlock M.B. ...	8	12	20	1.348
South West Salop ...	33	40	73	1.517

ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORY ACTS 1937

The districts being chiefly agricultural in character the only factories are in the more urban areas such as parts of the Borough of Wenlock and at Church Stretton.

In Wenlock Borough the Inspector reports that there are 115 factories on the register and 110 visits were paid to these during the year. In nine cases defects were found and these were all remedied after notice had been sent to the proprietors.

At Church Stretton there are 21 factories including a laundry, a mineral water factory and a timber yard. Twenty-four visits of inspection were made and in only one case was a defect found and this was remedied after attention had been drawn to it.

CAUSES OF DEATH—1948

Cause of Death	Atcham R.D.	Bishop's Castle M.B.	Church Stretton U.D.	Clun R.D.	Wenlock M.B.	S.W. Salop
Heart Disease ...	45	11	13	38	52	159
Cancer ...	29	2	5	17	20	73
Intra-cranial Vasc. Lesions ...	43	—	3	12	26	84
Violence ...	19	—	—	4	5	28
Bronchitis ...	12	1	—	6	8	27
Pneumonia ...	10	1	5	4	7	27
Dis. of Digestion	7	1	—	3	8	19
Tuberculosis—						
Pulmonary ...	4	—	1	3	8	19
Other ...	1	—	—	—	2	
Nephritis ...	5	1	2	5	2	15
Dis. of Circulation	7	—	—	3	3	13
Diabetes ...	1	—	1	5	3	10
Other diseases of resp. organs ...	3	—	—	1	4	8
Premature birth...	2	—	—	2	3	7
Influenza ...	1	—	1	—	—	2
Congenital Mal- formation ...	2	—	—	3	3	8
Whooping Cough	2	—	—	1	—	3
Puerperal Causes	1	—	—	—	—	1
Syphilis ...	—	—	—	1	—	1
All other causes...	21	—	4	11	20	56
Totals ...	215	17	35	119	174	560

DEATH RATES

Disease or other cause					Death-rate per 1,000 of population
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	3.3
Intra-cranial Vasc. Dis.	...	...	...	...	1.7
Cancer	...	...	...	...	1.5
Violence	...	...	...	...	0.5
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	0.5
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	0.5
Diseases of Digestive System	...	...	...	...	0.3
Tuberculosis—all forms	...	...	...	...	0.3
General death-rate from all causes	...	...	...	...	11.6



